

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 5 have been amended above to overcome the examiner's objections noted in section 1 of the office action.

In regard to section 2 of the office action, drawings were filed with the application. Attached is a copy of the drawings as filed.

The term "means for locking" has been changed to --lock-- in order to broaden the scope of the claims. Changes have also been made to claim 1 above to clarify the claim language; not to narrow the scope of the claim.

Claims 1, 2, 6, 9, 10 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Nakamura (US 6,524,125). The examiner is requested to reconsider this rejection.

It appears that the examiner has misconstrued Nakamura. As explained in Column 5, lines 8-49 and as shown in Figs. 2-4, Fig. 4 shows the final connected position. In this position, the springs 25 have been released. The springs 25 are compressed in the intermediate (half-fitted) connected state shown in Fig. 3. There is no disclosure or suggestion that the springs 25 are able to assist in disconnection from the connected state shown in Fig. 4.

Claim 1, on the other hand, claims that the elastic member has a first deformed position in the connected state, and that the elastic member brings about a separation of the case with respect to the cover when the movement of the disconnection device is triggered by the release. This is not disclosed or suggested in Nakamura. In Nakamura there is no disclosure or

suggestion that the springs 25 have a deformed position in the connected state shown in Fig. 4. In Nakamura there is no disclosure or suggestion that the springs 25 can bring about a separation of the case 10 with respect to the cover 40 when movement of the disconnection device 12 is triggered by the release 14. The springs 25 merely appear to be compressed in the half-fitted state. Claim 1, on the other hand, claims that the elastic member has a first deformed position in the connected state, and that the elastic member brings about a separation of the case with respect to the cover when the movement of the disconnection device is triggered by the release. In Nakamura, movement of the disconnection device 12 is not triggered by the release 14 with assistance from the springs 25 to obtain a disconnected state. The features of claim 1 are not disclosed or suggested in the cited art. Therefore, claim 1 is patentable and should be allowed.

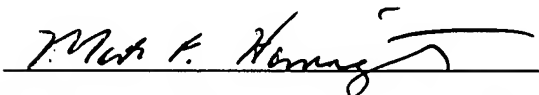
Though the claims dependent upon claim 1 contain their own allowable subject matter, these claims should at least be allowable due to their dependence from allowable claim 1. However, to expedite prosecution at this time, no further comment will be made.

Independent claim 19 is a method claim which claims that a release is moved relative to the disconnection device, in order to dislodge from a groove recessed in the disconnection device a first lock, by at least a height corresponding to a depth of the groove. Nakamura does not disclose or suggest that release 14 is moved relative to the disconnection device, in order to dislodge from a groove recessed in the disconnection device 12 a first lock 40A, by at least a height

corresponding to a depth of the groove. The lock engaging member 14 is part of the locking arm 12. Thus, lock engaging member 14 is not moved relative to the locking arm 12. With applicants' invention, the release 15 is moved relative to the disconnection device 4 to dislodge the lock 19 from the disconnection device 4. The features of claim 19 are not disclosed or suggested in the cited art. Therefore, claim 19 is patentable and should be allowed.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issue remain, the examiner is invited to call applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Aug. 27, 2007  
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